



The Occupational Health Laboratory has maintained accreditation for analysis of industrial hygiene samples by the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) since 1978. Current AIHA accreditation requirements ensure compliance with International Standard ISO/IEC 17025, general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

The requirements of AIHA's Laboratory Quality Assurance Program (LQAP) are very rigorous and require assessment and compliance in the following areas:

- 1) Personnel qualifications and training for all key laboratory positions.
- 2) Participation in the LQAP Proficiency Analytical Testing (PAT) program for all categories of analytes that are part of the services provided by the laboratory. PAT round samples are prepared by the AIHA and sent out quarterly to measure a laboratory's ability to report accurate results in a timely fashion.
- 3) Facilities assessment to ensure adequate space, appropriate environmental controls, and proper instrumentation.
- 4) Quality control procedures and documentation.
- 5) Laboratory document control procedures covering data, records, forms, files, operating procedures, and sample tracking.
- 6) Methods of analysis are examined for compliance with acceptable practices, validation, documentation, and appropriate review.
- 7) Site visits by AIHA assessors are required at least once every two years and typically take three days.

Maintaining AIHA accreditation is time consuming and costly, but it is another tool that helps to ensure that the quality of the analytical services provided by LESS is second to none.

If you would like to learn more about AIHA's LQAP or their other services, please visit <http://www.aiha.org>.